



MEMO

TO: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors and G. Patrick O’Dowd
FROM: Lisa Moore
RE: **Federal Report**
DATE: May 14, 2024

We have been actively engaged in clearing the obstacles to advancing the recommended course of action for our U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Salton Sea Feasibility Study (study). I am happy to report that our work through our Congressional delegation to secure the funding required to do so has been successful. On Monday, May 13, USACE released its FY24 work plan. It included **\$3.878 million in funding** to advance the study.

This was the biggest USACE FY24 work plan commitment for any study in the country.

As I reported in March, we had identified several priorities to ensue the study would proceed as desired. Patrick focused his February meetings in D.C. on securing Congressional support for these priorities. First, we needed to legislatively remove a barrier in prior law limiting our ability to increase funding into our study. That was accomplished in the FY24 Energy and Water Appropriations law.

Second, we needed additional financial resources to pursue COA 2. To secure these resources, we pursued a dual funding strategy of seeking USACE funding administratively through the work plan, while also submitting Congressional appropriations requests to our delegation. I worked in follow up with our Congressional delegation to engage USACE to seek work plan funding. Members sent letters supporting this effort, as well as conducting other advocacy with USACE. The delegation strongly supported securing these funds for the study, particularly U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, who serves on the relevant Senate committee overseeing USACE. Congressman Raul Ruiz, who took the lead in securing the original legislation authorizing the study, also engaged directly with USACE on our behalf.

Our third priority was securing a waiver of USACE internal policies dictating that studies such as ours be completed within 3 years and for \$3 million (split 50/50 with the local sponsor). We are now working with USACE to determine if the inclusion of \$3.878 in the work plan is de facto that waiver, as the amount itself significantly exceeds the \$1.5 million typical federal share for this work.